

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA  
SHREVEPORT DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	) CIVIL ACTION NO.
Plaintiff	)
	)
v.	) JUDGE
	)
\$8,000.00 IN UNITED STATES	) MAGISTRATE JUDGE
CURRENCY,	)
Defendant <i>in rem</i> .	)

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE**

NOW INTO COURT comes the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (the “Government”) by and through the United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana and the undersigned Assistant United States Attorney, who brings this Complaint for Forfeiture *in rem* for the reasons set forth hereafter:

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. This Court has original jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1345 and 1355(a) as the Government is the plaintiff commencing this forfeiture action.
2. Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2), as a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the Government’s claims occurred in the Western District of Louisiana.
3. Venue is also proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1395(b), as the defendant *in rem* was found and seized in the Western District of Louisiana.

**DEFENDANT *IN REM***

4. The defendant *in rem* of this action consists of EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$8,000.00) in U.S. Currency that was seized on May 31, 2019 at the United States Postal Service

Processing and Distribution Center located 2400 Texas Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana 71102 (hereinafter the “Defendant Property”).

5. The Defendant Property remains in the custody of the United States Postal Inspection Service.

### **FACTS**

6. The U.S. Mail is often used by narcotics traffickers to transport controlled substances, as well as U.S. Currency derived from the distribution of controlled substances. This occurs because traffickers know that the U.S. Mail, particularly Express and Priority Mail, is considered First Class Mail and is protected against inspection without a Federal Search Warrant.

7. On May 30, 2019, during the course of a review of inbound Express Mail parcels at the United States Postal Service Process and Distribution Center in Shreveport, Louisiana, Postal Inspectors recovered a suspicious Express Mail Parcel, #EJ039450306US (the “Parcel”). The Parcel was addressed as follows:

Recipient: Esther Mae, 229 E. 122nd St., Los Angeles, California 90061.

Sender: Nicholas Glover, 213 7th SW, Springhill, Louisiana 71075

8. The Parcel was suspicious because its characteristics were consistent with others which, in the past, contained proceeds of controlled substances.

9. Postal Inspectors determined that the sender’s address was a valid delivery address and the sender’s name, Nicholas Glover, was associated with the address. Prior investigations by Postal Inspectors have identified the origin city, Springhill, Louisiana and surrounding areas, as a source area for narcotics and controlled substances or the proceeds of controlled substance sales, or money furnished or intended to be furnished in exchange for controlled substances.

10. The recipient's address was also a valid delivery address; however, the recipient's name, Esther Mae, could not be associated with the address. Postal Inspectors confirmed that the recipient's address has received numerous packages from multiple narcotics destination areas.

11. According to the shipping label, the Parcel was mailed on May 29, 2019 from Bossier City, Louisiana 71111. The zip code of mailing, 71111, was different from the zip code listed on the return address portion of the Express Mail label, which was 71075. Prior investigations have revealed that narcotics traffickers will often mail a parcel from an address that is different from the return address of the sender to avoid detection.

12. The shipping label was handwritten and the "Signature Required" section was not checked. This allowed the Parcel to be delivered without the recipient or the recipient's agent having to sign for the Parcel. Narcotics traffickers often waive the signature requirement to thwart the identification of the recipient, if the recipient's address is being investigated by law enforcement.

13. On May 30, 2019, the Parcel was exposed to a narcotic detection canine, "Sita," at the Postal Inspection Service located at 2400 Texas Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana 71102. Sita is handled by Deputy Canine Officer Christian Dickey with the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office. Deputy Dickey and Sita received their certification through the National Police Canine Association and have numerous hours of training in the detection of controlled substances such as Marijuana, Cocaine and Methamphetamine.

14. Sita conducted an open air examination of the Parcel. Deputy Dickey advised Postal Inspectors that Sita made a positive alert to the presence of a controlled substance scent from inside the Parcel.

15. On May 31, 2019, a Federal Search Warrant was obtained and executed for the Parcel resulting in the discovery of the Defendant Property.

16. Upon opening the Parcel, Postal Inspectors observed a plastic grocery bag and miscellaneous party supplies inside of a gift bag. At the bottom of the gift bag, Postal Inspectors found an old dirty sock concealing \$8,000 in U.S. Currency.

17. There were no other documents, notes, or instructions included with the Defendant Property. Prior investigations by Postal Inspectors have shown that traffickers rarely include any type of instruction with the proceeds of controlled substances. Legitimate business transactions or personal gifts would ordinarily contain some form of note, letter, receipt, or card with cash or monetary instruments.

18. The Defendant Property was seized on May 31, 2019 at the United States Postal Service Processing and Distribution Center located 2400 Texas Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana 71102.

19. On July 18, 2019, the United States Postal Service (“USPS”) sent Notice of Seizure of Property and Initiation of Administrative Forfeiture Proceedings as required by 18 U.S.C. § 983(a)(1)(A) to the known interested parties: Nicholas Glover, 213 7th SW, Springhill, Louisiana 71025; and Esther Mae, 229 E. 122nd Street, Los Angeles, California 90061.

20. Nicholas Glover (“Glover”) filed a claim of ownership to the Defendant Property on August 5, 2019. The time has expired for any other person to file a claim to the Defendant Property under 18 U.S.C. § 983(a)(2)(A)-(E), and no person other than Glover has filed a claim to the Defendant Property as required by law in the administrative forfeiture proceeding.

21. Glover claimed that the Defendant Property was placed in the mail by mistake. He claimed to have saved the money to purchase a vehicle and was on his way to do so when he placed the money in the mail by error.

22. On August 9, 2019, the USPS sent Glover a request for documentation to support his claim. Specifically, the USPS requested information regarding: 1) Glover's relationship to the recipient of the Parcel; 2) the vehicle Glover intended to purchase; 3) the packaging of the Defendant Property; 4) the source of the funds; and 5) actions taken by Glover to retrieve the Defendant Property between the date it was seized and the date he received notice of the seizure.

23. Glover received the USPS' request for additional information on August 12, 2019. To-date, Glover has not responded to this request.

**VIOLATION OF 18 U.S.C. §§ 841 and 1956**

24. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), it is unlawful for any person to knowingly or intentionally manufacture, distribute, dispense, or possess with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense, a controlled substance.

25. Section 1956(a)(1) of Title 18 makes it unlawful for a person to conduct or attempt to conduct a financial transaction involving the proceeds of a specified unlawful activity, knowing that the property involved in the transaction represents the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, with the intent to promote the carrying on of specified unlawful activity.

26. 18 U.S.C. § 1956(c)(4) defines a financial transaction as a transaction which in any way affects interstate commerce involving one or more monetary instruments.

27. The term transaction includes a purchase, sale, loan, pledge, gift, transfer, delivery, or other disposition, under 18 U.S.C. § 1956(c)(3).

28. Monetary instruments are defined in Section 1956(c)(5) of Title 18 as coin or currency of the United States.

29. The term “specified unlawful activity” as defined in Sections 1956(c)(7) and 1961(1) of Title 18 includes dealing in a controlled substance.

**CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

30. The Defendant Property is subject to forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6) because it was furnished or intended to be furnished in exchange for a controlled substance; is traceable to such an exchange; or was money used or intended to be used to facilitate a violation of Chapter 13, Subchapter I of Title 21 of the United States Code.

31. The Defendant Property is subject to forfeiture pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A) because it was involved in a transaction or attempted transaction in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956.

32. The Defendant Property is subject to forfeiture pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) because it constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to a specified unlawful activity as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 1956(c)(7)(A).

33. This action is required to be brought in the United States District Court pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 983(a)(3)(A), because Nicholas Glover filed a claim of ownership in the administrative forfeiture proceeding.

**CONCLUSION AND RELIEF**

Plaintiff, the United States of America, requests that a warrant and summons be issued for the arrest and seizure of the Defendant Property; that due notice be given to all interested persons known or thought to have an interest in or right against the Defendant Property to appear and show cause why the forfeiture should not be decreed; that judgment be entered declaring the Defendant

Property be condemned and forfeited to the United States of America; that the United States of America be awarded costs and disbursements in this action according to law; and that the United States be granted such other further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID C. JOSEPH  
United States Attorney

Dated: November 1, 2019

*s/Jerry Edwards*  
JERRY EDWARDS  
Assistant United States Attorney  
300 Fannin St., Suite 3201  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101  
(318) 676-3600  
(Louisiana Bar No. 30242)

**VERIFICATION**

I, JOSHUA KOCHER, state that I am a Postal Inspector with the United States Postal Inspection Service in the Houston Division Headquarters. I have read the foregoing Complaint for Forfeiture and declare under penalty of perjury that the facts contained therein are true and correct based upon knowledge possessed by me or upon information received from other law enforcement agents.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Joshua Kocher, Postal Inspector

Dated: October 31, 2019

## CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

## I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

United States of America

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)  
Jerry Edwards  
Assistant United States Attorney  
300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201, Shreveport, LA 71101, 318-676-3614

## DEFENDANTS

\$8,000 in U.S. Currency

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF  
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

## II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

## III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

	PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF
Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

## IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b>	<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
		<b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))
			<b>IMMIGRATION</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions
			<b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609

## V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Original Proceeding	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Removed from State Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Remanded from Appellate Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Reinstated or Reopened	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File
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Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  
21 USC 881; 18 USC 981

## VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Brief description of cause:  
Civil Asset Forfeiture

## VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

 CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

## DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:  
JURY DEMAND:  Yes  No

## VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

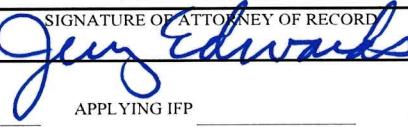
DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

11/01/2019

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD



APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT